

Representative Houghton,

I'm writing to express UVM Medical Center's support for the Governor's recommendation that the provider tax on home health agencies be allowed to sunset. The post-acute system of care has never been more stressed than it is today, which is in turn inhibiting our ability to provide the right care at the right time to the right patients. We urge you to help Vermont's home health agencies deliver the skilled home health services on which so many of our patients (and hospital discharges across our region) depend.

It is my understanding that while this action won't address all the financial challenges our home health partners face, it's the single most significant step available to support these services.

As you've heard us report before, at UVM Medical Center, we have averaged between **50 and 80 patients** who have been in inpatient beds but who no longer need a hospital-level of care. These Vermonters are often having to spend days to weeks in the hospital unnecessarily. Meanwhile, we are running between 90 and 100+% capacity, forcing us to turn away transfers of patients from across our region who are in need of the level of care we provide. It's critical that we support the sub-acute system of care.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if there is any additional information we can provide.

Best,

Steve

Stephen Leffler, MD (he/him)
President & Chief Operating Officer
UVM Medical Center